

# In The Middle



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## What Distracts Students In Class?

Story by Carina Martusevici

What distracts children in class? One question that everyone and teachers want to know about. When you get the report card and you see the A's, B's, C's, D's, and even F's the first think that comes to mind is "How are my parents going to take this?" But after you show your parents and get lectured, you think about how to make this new semester better and the report card improved so here are some tips:

Pay attention

Sit by people that you won't talk to

Do all your homework and then check it over for mistakes

Do your homework in a place that you wont get distracted

If there is a test or quiz study because it is better to know the info then not know it at all

## It's Mr.Gedge and *Seussical!*

By: Daniela Robayo and Samantha Reich

Did You Know...

Before Mr. Gedge came here to EMS he was on BROADWAY. He was on many shows like *Preppies*, *Showboat*, *The Christmas Spectacular at Radio City*, and he was on *Ryan's Hope* which is a soap opera on ABC. When he stopped he decided to teach music so he came here to EMS. He said that he likes being a teacher. Also that his favorite thing to do was to sing in choir, playing the piano, and working in the garden. If he didn't choose to teach at Eastchester Middle School, he would still be on Broadway or on TV shows. Mr. Gedge decided to help out Mr. Gwardyak with *Seussical* because he wanted to help out a friend. He also said that *The Cat in The Hat*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, and *Horton Hears a Who* would be in the show. He also said that about 60 kids are going to be in the show. Mr. Gedge says that the musical will premiere on April 12, 2007. He hopes many will people will come and enjoy themselves at the show. The Newspaper Club, and the Players Club hope you come and have a great time at *Seussical*.

*See related story on page 12*

## Teacher Interview: Ms. Burke

By

Samantha Reich

**Q:** What made you want to become a teacher?

**A:** My parents were good role models when they worked with kids. I was also a camp counselor and I knew that I would work with kids one day.

**Q:** What is your favorite part about teaching ELA?

**A:** My favorite part about ELA is that there is never only one right answer. I also like it because it involves a lot of creativity.

**Q:** What is your favorite part about coaching basketball?

**A:** I like the way how the kids work very hard to get better, and have fun. It is very exciting to be part of the game.

**Q:** Why did you choose sixth grade at EMS?

**A:** I grew up playing sports against Eastchester schools and I always knew the schools had a good reputation.

**Q:** Did you teach anywhere else when before you went to EMS?

**A:** Yes, Briarcliff Middle School for two years.

## NASCAR Silly Season 2007

By Steven Taranto

I'm sure that many people are familiar with the term "Silly Season", since, after all, it is used in all sports. However, no silly season seems as hectic as NASCAR's silly season, with driver and sponsorship changes. Here's what changes will be seen when the series arrives in Daytona in February:

Veteran Mark Martin will vacate the #6 Roush Racing Ford which he has driven for much of his career, giving the reigns to Craftsman Truck Series driver David Ragan. Martin will drive a limited schedule in the #01 MB2 Motorsports Chevrolet, sharing the ride with Busch Series driver Regan Smith. Ken Schrader and Jon Wood will be sharing the #21 Wood Brothers Ford, Ward Burton will have a ride with Morgan-McClure Motorsports

after a 2 year hiatus, Juan Pablo Montoya will take the #42 Havoline Dodge from Casey Mears, who will move to Hendrick Motorsports. The ride Mears is taking over has been vacated by Brian Vickers, who will drive a Toyota for Team Red Bull next year, joining former ChampCar driver A.J Allmindinger. Jeremy Mayfield, who was fired by Evernham Motorsports in August, will also be driving a Toyota. However, he will be driving for Bill Davis Racing. Also driving a Toyota will be Craftsman Truck Series driver David Reuittmann. He will be driving for Michael Waltrip Racing, as will veteran Dale Jarrett. And recently, it was announced that the #88 would be filled by veteran Ricky Rudd, with the Mars brand 'Snickers' as the primary sponsor.



Dale Jarrett's 2007 Primary Paint Scheme

## Review: Disgaea 2: Cursed Memories

When you ask most Role Playing Game (RPG) fans about the greatest RPG series of all-time, most will tell you about games like “Final Fantasy”, or anything else by Sqauresoft. These games, however, are pale in comparison to Disgaea 2: Cursed Memories. Developed by Nippon Ichi Software, Disgaea 2 is a sequel to the popular S-RPG “Disgaea: Hour Of Darkness”. The main story revolves around Adell, a human boy in a netherworld cursed by “Overlord Zenon”. The basis of the story revolves around a ritual to summon Overlord Zenon, but rather than summoning Zenon himself, his daughter, Rozalin, is summoned by supposedly, a mistake. Adell, who was already hell-bent on defeating Zenon, sets out to return Rozalin to her father. They encounter many other characters throughout the game, such as Tink, Rozalin’s childhood friend who was cursed to become a frog, Taro and Hanako, Adell’s younger siblings, Axel, a washed-up Anti-Hero still in his glory days, Etna, a demon lord hell-bent on killing Zenon for his title of “God Of All Overlords” (She was also a main character in the original Disgaea), Yukimaru, a ninja who says “Zam” a lot, and many others. The story itself, is so gripping with all the plot twists throughout the game that make you keep on playing. Moving onto the game’s battle system, it is much more than just generic and special attacks. There is a ton of strategy involved, and you can use team and stack attacks to your utmost advantage. And your party isn’t just limited to characters in the game, since you can also choose from hundreds

## FABULOUS WINTER FASHIONS!

By Natalie Mirante

In winter most people put away the cute skirts, ballet flats, and shorts, then they take out those ugly sweatpants and puffy coats. **BIG MISTAKE!** Even in winter you can look totally cute and stay warm. Here are a few ways to do so!

### WINTER FASHIONS

Take that cute mini skirt and turn it into a winter appropriate outfit by wearing it over warm leggings and pair it with a cute sweater and a belt. **DO NOT** wear ugly snow boots with this outfit! **WEAR UGGS!** If you don’t have a pair, wear this outfit with cowboy boots (too cute) or just regular boots.

**SHORTS ARE ALLOWED!** Wear a pair of thick tights under them. Then, pair this with a bright top and metallic ballet flats. **TOO ADORABLE FOR WORDS!**

And ballet flats, **THEY ARE SO HOT RIGHT NOW!** Wear them with jeans or a skirt, they give any outfit a vintage flair, **SOOOO PLUSH!**



Heidi Klum

## Tongue Twisters

By Jessica Costa and Anna Jacobs

If you can say all of these things 10 times fast you're the tongue twister master.

How much wood could a wood chuck chuck if a wood chuck could chuck wood

She sells sea shells by the sea shore.

The shells she sells are surely seashells.

So if she sells shells on the seashore,

I'm sure she sells seashore shells.

Peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers if peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers where is the peck of pickled peppers that peter piper picked

Six sick slick slim sycamore saplings.

box of biscuits, a batch of mixed biscuits

A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk,  
but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Red lorry, yellow lorry, red lorry, yellow lorry.

Unique New York.

Minimal animal

Betty Botter had some butter,  
"But," she said, "This butter's bitter.  
If I bake this bitter butter,  
it would make my batter bitter.  
But a bit of better butter--  
that would make my batter better."

So she bought a bit of butter,  
better than her bitter butter,  
and she baked it in her batter,  
and the batter was not bitter.  
So 'twas better Betty Botter  
bought a bit of better butter.

**At what temperature will the Celsius and Fahrenheit thermometers read the same temperature? (Ask your science teacher when you think you know!)**

### What's missing from this newspaper?

The answer is **You!** Yes, you can join the newspaper club and write thrilling articles, funny jokes, and the latest reviews. Join us Fridays in the shared wing computer room (S210). We start just before 3PM. The more stories we have, the more editions we can print! So join us next week!





# March 2007

	<b>1</b>							<b>2. 6th grade Activity night</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>9</b> Eastchester School foundation Harlem Wizards event-High School 6:45pm	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>				<b>16</b>
									<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Eagles Sports club meeting - 7:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>			<b>23</b> School Closed	<b>24</b> Middle School: NON-Event Foundation
<b>25</b>		<b>26</b> Modified Sports Begin	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>			<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## E.M.S News Paper Club New Year's Resolutions

By, Karrissa Lazzari and Anna Jacobs

The newspaper club made some New Year's resolutions for this year.

The sixth grade news paper club resolutions -

To not be mean to my little brother

Not to eat sweets

To do better in school

To get better grades

Get better test scores

To get a boyfriend

Stop failing social studies

To manage time better

Get rid of stuff I don't want

Try harder in school

AND

Mr. Unson wants to eat healthier

**Fun Fact: Despite what we think, a polar bear's fur is not white. Each hair is a clear hollow tube. Polar bears look white because each hollow hair reflects the light.**

## Disgaea 2 continued from page 3

counterattack, add more variety to the shops, or even unlock secret boss battles! (You have to bribe the assembly to get them on your side, however.)

The game is accompanied by wonderful voice acting and a stellar soundtrack, which suits each character and level. And for fans of the original Disgaea, several of the main characters in "Hour Of Darkness" appear as well (Most aren't in the actual story, however.). And even after the story ends, there is still a lot to accomplish, so you're never really done with the game. My only real complaint with Disgaea 2 would have to be that some fights can be agonizingly difficult to complete, but that's just how things go, I guess.

If you are a fan of RPGs, S-RPGs, or just games in general, Disgaea 2: Cursed Memories is a game that will not disappoint, and will not soon be forgotten.

Final Score:

9.9 - Astonishing.



## History Club News

Written By: Mr. Burmester

Submitted By: Samantha Reich

Patrick McManus, an eighth grade student, has won the Eastchester Middle School's National Geographic Geography Bee. Patrick competed with Peter Barbieri, Jake Freyer, Rebekah Dowdle, Luis Lopez, and Kevin Pash.



The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual National Geographic Society. Patrick will now take a written test, and if he is successful, he will go to Albany, for the New York State Finals. The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for each of the 50 state champions. The first place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, and Alex Trebek, host of T.V.'s Jeopardy will host the finals on T.V. All of us at Eastchester Middle School congratulate Patrick, and the other contestants for a job well done!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art

By Emily Rissoff

### Tongue Twisters continued

Six thick thistle sticks. Six thick thistles stick.

A big black bug bit a big black bear,  
made the big black bear bleed blood.

The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.

One smart fellow, he felt smart.

Two smart fellows, they felt smart.

Three smart fellows, they all felt smart.

On Thursday, December 7, 2006, some of the sixth graders went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Anyone who had Ms. Ross 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> period, or Mrs. Johnson 1<sup>st</sup> period was invited to go. The field trip was to enjoy art and to learn more about Egypt, which is the current unit in Social Studies. Two teaching artists showed the students around the museum and they observed a few paintings. They also went to the Egypt section where they saw Egyptian paintings and had a scavenger hunt. Students also saw stones that had hieroglyphs (Egyptian writing) on it. Many people said they enjoyed the trip.



Thank you  
[www.geocities.com](http://www.geocities.com) for the  
Tongue Twisters

## CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET? TAKE THIS QUIZ TO FIND OUT!

By Emily Rissoff

Your friend fails on a test you got a hundred on! You think that test was so easy, it was impossible to fail.

Your friend asks you not to tell anyone else. What do you do?

- Omigosh! Your friend? A straight A student fails a test? Someone has to know!
- Tell another trustworthy friend you know. She has failed a test before!
- Don't tell a soul...not even your diary!

Your mother's birthday is coming up and you buy her the perfect gift after school.

You come home from the store and you find your mother asking you why you didn't come straight home from school. You:

- Can't think of an excuse so you admit that you were out shopping for her b-day.
- Quickly change the subject, but later you mention something about it.
- Say that you're sorry for disobeying your mother's rules and go up to your room.

Your friend has been robbed! Her cell phone has been stolen out of her locker.

After school, you find out that the robber happened to be her other best friend. If you tell, you may be caught in the middle of a relationship. What do you do?

- Decide that your friend should admit it herself that she took the phone and you keep it a secret.
- Think that locker robbery is not a joke and go to your friend immediately!
- Tell the teacher and see what they say.

Your mother is out shopping and you are allowed to stay home yourself. Your friend calls and asks what you are doing. When you tell her you are alone, she invites some other friends over and there is an unexpected party. When your mom comes home, she asks you how your time alone was. What do you say?

- Oh... it was great!
- Omigosh! It was awesome! My friends came over and we had the coolest party! Oops!
- Um...I...We... I d-did my homework, wait no! I...

### Answers:

Compare each of the answers with the number of points.

Question 1) A=3 B=2 C=1

Question 2) A=3 B=1 C=2

Question 3) A=1 B=3 C=2

Question 4) A=1 B=3 C=2

### 9 to 12 points- SPILL THE BEANS!

For you, any secret that you're told you just can't resist telling someone else. This may be fun for you, but how about all those people who now have their secrets being exposed to the world?

### 3 to 8 points- PRESSURED TO KEEP A SECRET

Sometimes you are a locked diary. At other times, all the pages are flying out everywhere. This means that you are being pressured when it comes to those secrets that you REALLY want to tell, but you feel bad if you do tell them. Don't worry. When you're told another secret, you'll know what to do.

### 1 to 3 points- SECRETS SAFE WITH YOU

You are the best at keeping secrets. You can probably picture what it would be like if your secrets were exposed to the world. Keep keeping those secrets and your friends will consider you the most trustworthy person they know!



## Jazz-Co Interview with Ms. Woodrow

By: Vanesa Valencia

Q. Is jazz-co fun?

A. I have fun in jazz-co, so it's fun for the kids because they learn new dances and have fun performing.

Q. How many dances do you do?

A. We usually do between 25 or more dances.

Q. Is it hard?

A. I think some dances are really hard. We dance from 3-4 (hours). It's really hard for rehearsal.

Q. What type of music do you use?

A. We have themes. We try not to use the Top 40 on radio stations. The choreographers choose the song. This year we have a theme, its music from Disney.

Q. Do they teach you the dances quickly?

A. We usually take 6-8 hours to learn a dance. Each dance is 1 hour. During final rehearsal, we rehearse every day.

Q. What is the most difficult part of being in jazz-co?

A. It is juggling all your responsibilities.

Q. What do you do that we, the audience, don't see?

A. A lot of people work, especially working with choreographers to make up dances. Choreographers have to go to workshops with us.

Q. How long have you been coaching?

A. Since 1969 the company was called dance club, then confetti, and now it's called Jazz-Co. 37 years I've been working.



Q. Do you enjoy it?

A. YES! It's rewarding and it keeps changing so it's interesting.

Q. What is the number that people get in jazz-co?

A. The number is about 50 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 60 7<sup>th</sup> and 60 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Many boys joined.

Q. Do you need special training?

A. Well yes, you have to love dancing and be willing to work hard. The H.S. dancers become choreographers.

Q. We understand that we have to work hard, but is it all hard, or can we enjoy jazz-co too?

A. I think it wouldn't be successful unless you're having fun.

Q. Do you have to go to every meeting?

A. Yes. Each grade meets 1 or 2 hours a week from March through May.

## Winter Fashions

By: Isabella Bellizzi

Fall has always been my favorite time of year, for the season changes, but more importantly - the fashion changes. While you're shopping for all things fabulous for the colder seasons, keep the items on this list in mind to be on top of all of the fall 2006 fashion trends.

### Wide Leg Jeans/Pants

I love a wide leg jean – I've been wearing them since I was 7 years old and am so glad they are front and center for Fall 2006. The contrast between a wide pant and a fitted shirt just does so much for me... not to mention it hides any flaws I might have.

Buy the Trend: Lane Bryant “Houston” pant

### Skinny Jeans

This is a trend that very few can pull off – it's a look best left to celebrities, models and the very thin among us. It's not a look I particularly enjoy, but can work on some.

### Sponsored Links

High fashion trends

what celebrities are wearing Purses, clothes, jewelry and belts

[makeyouentrance.com](http://makeyouentrance.com)

### Winter Fashion Boots

Looking to find winter boots? Visit a fantastic winter boots guide. [Winter-BootInfo.com](http://Winter-BootInfo.com)



### Hot New Trends

Trends, Trends, Trends, Trends Time to find the next big thing!

Make sure you pair skinny jeans with a loose fitting top.

Buy the Trend: Gap's Skinny Jean

All these new Winter clothes will be a hit...

## High School Players Club

By Michael Kenny

This year the Players Club is doing the musical called Seussical.

It is based on all of Dr. Seuss's books. We are doing this because it is The Cat in the Hat. The three stories are How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Cat in the Hat, and Horton Hears a Who.

If you didn't read the books, The Cat in the Hat is about two kids are inside on a rainy day then a cartoon like cat walks in with a bunch of crazy ideas and machines. How the Grinch Stole Christmas is about a small town on a snowflake were the people love Christmas, but the Grinch doesn't, he is trying to get rid it In Horton Hears a Who Horton who is an elephant sees a speck land on his nose, then he hears it speak. He hears its troubles and has to save it.

This play will take place April 12, 2007. This play will take a LOT of work so please come and watch it.



### Tests



During a test it can be very stressful.

You can feel like the whole world is on your shoulders.

Afraid you'll get a bad grade and not go to a good college or even go to college.

Also you might get so nervous you want to pull out your hair.

Well too bad. Just do your best. Study, practice test taking skills, have friends or family quiz you, make a study group, go to studying websites, and more. Your teachers taught you everything you need to know. Don't stress on tests.

## Varsity Hockey Team Wins Huge Game against Division 3 Team

### Varsity Hockey Team Wins Huge Game against Division 3 Team

Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> was a huge step for the Eastchester/Tuckahoe/Bronxville varsity hockey team. Two years ago the Eastchester Eagles had nothing to their credit as a good team. Just last year they added Tuckahoe to the hockey teams because of lack of players. It was better but still not great as they finished 6 and 5. They decided to take one more step and add Bronxville into the mix. It has been a major success as they started the year 2-0 on the year going into arguably the biggest game of the year. Because of their past years of failure they were a division 5 out of 5. (5 being the worst)

They were playing division 3 New Rochelle. Eastchester was a huge underdog coming into the game. They were playing in their home rink in Mount Vernon (Ice hut). It started all Eastchester as they scored 2 unanswered goals by Alex Hagen and Matt Kenny. Then [unfortunately the rest of this article was lost, but the editor is certain that the coach would welcome any spectators to the next big game!]